



This copy of The Elongated Coin box is a special preview version available to the attendees of the 1st Annual Kansas City, Kansas EC meet. It is my hope that this will be the first of many publications on various EC topics. Similarly it is my hope that the Kansas City EC meet be the first of many as well.



OCTOBER 18, 2008

The Elongated Coin Box



MAY All your Elongates
be Cu, Bu, Full Rolls;

Tyler Tyson

By: Tyler D. Tyson 2008

The Elongated Coin Box

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Introduction:

So perhaps you've heard of the fabled penny box and you've wondered if they really exist? Or perchance you've participated in one in the past and have contemplated creating one yourself and you have been uncertain on how to get started. Whatever the case may be, I hope this booklet helps in your quest and provide answers to your questions.

Most of the chat on the internet concerning a penny box often claims that one is rumored to be in circulation, but those who have signed up have never received it, never seen it. It's possible you might hear over and over "Where is it at?" Even its whereabouts are often unknown. At times these boxes might seem as elusive as Bigfoot!

Some time ago I participated in my first penny box, and enjoyed adding a great hoard of elongates to my collection. While I had the box in my possession I took the time to take notes and evaluate its contents. I contemplated about the pros and cons associated with the way it was put together and supervised.

Like many EC related discussions, I found very little printed material on the topic of the coin box. Therefore, I decided to put together my own coin box in order to observe its journey as it progressed along the trail between the participants. As it left each location, I emailed each person and asked for feedback, positive or negative. I wanted to get a feel for what worked and what didn't. Contained herein is what I learned.

My thoughts on how a coin box should operate is in no way inclusive, but should be looked at as a guideline for those who might have questions

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about them. It is my hope that you will be able to take what I have here and create your own box for trading. There can be many interesting variations that you can incorporate into your own box design and rules you can use to govern the movements.



About Tyler Tyson:

I've been collecting and rolling elongates for a few years now and during that time I've looked for information concerning these flattened pieces of artwork. There are a few catalogs of private rollers' works, and

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older designs, but it didn't seem like much was available for the typical collector. I've decided to put what information I've collected during the last few years into a couple booklets for collectors. By no means is the information contained herein considered comprehensive or how things necessarily should be, it's just what I've observed and I'd like to share. Take it or leave it for what it's worth.

First I will start by telling you a little bit about myself. I've lived all of my life throughout the Midwest: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa. All of my adult life I've lived in Wichita, KS. I'm a graduate of Wichita State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, with a minor in mathematics. So, if you see any spelling, punctuation, or errors in general, please forgive me! I've studied too much math and science; I should have taken more English classes during my formal education process.

How my interest in elongates began:

I still remember the first elongated coin that I ever rolled on a vended machine, and I still have that very coin in my collection to this day. On one of my visits to the local zoo I ran across one of the elongated machines. At that time there were two machines, one rolled quarters, the other cents. I was short on quarters because this is the same area they had the vending machines for water and pop. Being a typical dry and hot 100+ degree day in Kansas, my first priority was a bottle of water. While sitting around and sipping the water I went to look at these odd machines and I was fascinated by the whole process. I decided to use a couple of the quarters I had left to roll one of the pennies. I was smitten with the thought of making a souvenir out of a penny. The design I rolled was of a hippo (now retired), and yes it was on zinc.

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Many years passed and when I did encounter another machine I would roll one of the coins. It never crossed my mind to bring extra change and roll all of them. In a half a dozen years I might have collected a dozen coins total. These souvenirs proudly held a spot in the bottom of my camera bag. Occasionally I would pull all of them out and place them in lines on the floor or table and just look at them. I thought they were so cool. One day while searching on the internet I found I wasn't alone... And on that day part of my life had changed. It might sound funny to some, but my few coins have since exploded into a collection of tens of thousands. Vacations and daily life skirts the world of elongates all the time. My wife has learned to accept them, I'm sure she doesn't feel she has a choice since they can be found just about everywhere in the house.

My obsession grew and in 2005 I purchased my first rolling machine off a retired local roller here in Wichita. Mr. Simmons had been a coin designer and member of the TEC group in the mid to late 80's. I was shocked and surprised that a roller lived in the very town I lived; it seemed to be a great stroke of luck. I bought his machine and dies, but didn't feel like I had come into my own as a roller until I had designed and rolled a few of my own elongates.

These days, I prefer the camaraderie of my fellow collectors. I spend more time rolling private issues for myself and associates than I do rolling on vended machines. Private issues have a more personal feel to me. However, I started on the vended machines and would still roll some to this day if I ran across a striking design.

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What is a coin box?

The elongated coin box is a package of coins put together by an individual or group of individuals (see Seeding the Box in the Terminology section), that are referred to as the **moderator**. The moderator then puts together a list of **participants** and then sends the coins to the first name on the **list**. Upon receipt, that participant trades out elongates according to the **rules** of the box. When that individual is done, it is common to cross their name off the printed list enclosed in the box and send it to the next person on the list.

This process continues until the coin box completes its circuit and returns to the moderator. A successful mission will move with relative speed avoiding prolonged **snags**, or even the rare possibility of the package being lost in the mail.

With luck, each participant in turn will trade coins in and out of the box upholding the integrity of the box's contents. In the end, the box should return to its starting point (the moderator), free of coins that might be considered **trash**.

Why even create a coin box?

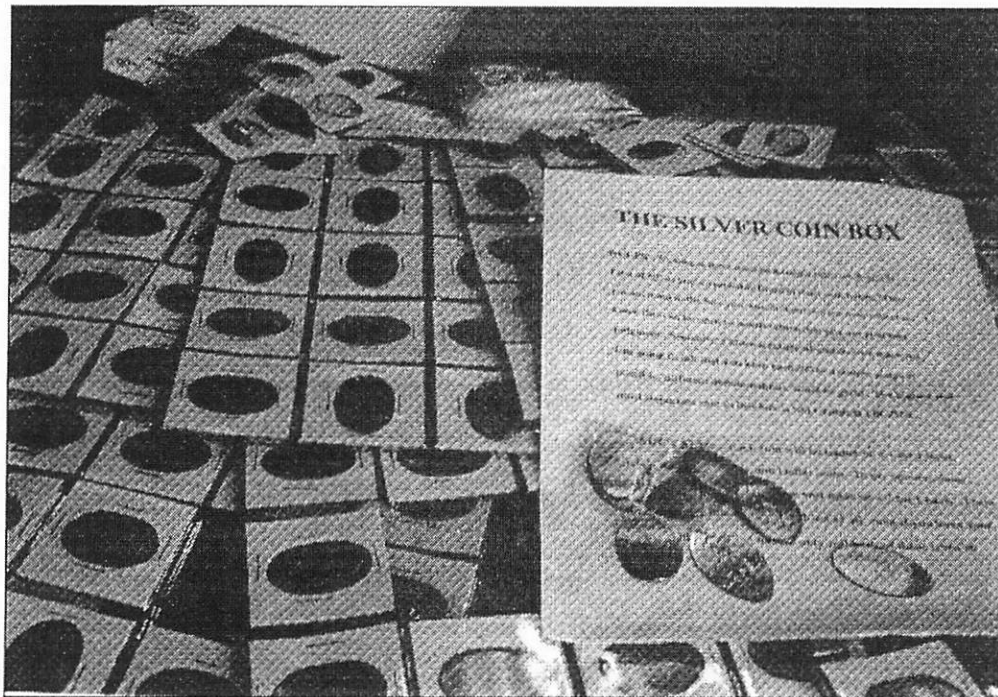
A coin box is created in order to trade large numbers of elongates. You never actually know what will return in the long run; you might be pleasantly surprised. The payoff is not only to add new coins to your collection, but to interact with your fellow elongated coin collectors.

How to get started:

If you are considering starting a coin box, you should think about how you want to run it. There are forms in this booklet to help you move along,

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sample rules, and blank lists. Please feel free to use these to keep track of your coin box. Most coin boxes are based on a set number of coins, 100 or more coins seem to be a good quantity to keep participants interested. Though I've never lost a box, or known anybody who has, it is always important to mention that you shouldn't send out more coins than you are willing to possibly lose. Anything can happen once the package is out of your hands.



Basic four- step process:

By following these simple four steps, a moderator can quickly and easily assemble a coin box and begin trading. Review each step, and using the forms enclosed in this booklet your job as a moderator will be fast and simple.

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Step 1, Selecting the box type:

Many coin boxes are topical, listed below are some sample ideas on types of boxes you can start. The simplest box will probably be the most successful.

All Copper	Retired	Anything Goes
All Zincs	Oldies	Foreign
Sets Only	Private Issues	The Mouse
By State	Zoos	Oddities
Amusement Parks	Silver coins	Non-Zinc
Vended Only	California	Sports

It is important to note that anything besides the basic box is difficult to find participants for. Though most collectors might have a good number of oldies, it would be tough to determine a trade value on certain coins. If you found the right crowd of “heavy hitters” you might have a very successful box.

Step 2, Rules:

So you’ve decided on the type of box you wish to operate, and you’ve selected a number of coins you wish to start with. The second step in operating the box is putting together a set of rules. Enclosed is a sample set of rules that may work with your box. Please review them and feel free to use them in their entirety or in part. It is important to let the participants know what they are getting into, and that they agree that they will abide by the box instructions. If it’s an all copper box, the last thing you want is a bunch of zincs returning in the box. Familiarize yourself with the terms

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listed in this booklet, some of which are used to describe actions that you might wish to include in your rules.

Step 3, A call for participants:

A penny box is useless without its participants. Once the moderator puts together the box and formulates the rules, it is typical to call out to fellow collectors in order to find interested individuals willing to take part in the festivities. These volunteers are referred to as the participants.

It is important for the moderator to collect data from these individuals such as Name, Mailing Address, and E-mail. This data is critical, and the most important part needed to create your list. Phone numbers are a little tricky. Most individuals these days are leery about giving out their numbers, and in the best case scenario a phone number shouldn't be needed. The information obtained from the prospective participants will be used to create a list.

When the moderator makes the offer to join the penny box, the content and rules should be made available and agreed upon at that time.



Step 4, The list:

When creating a list I often try to take into consideration the participant's locations. It's kind of like seating arrangements at a formal dinner. It doesn't make sense to put two participants in approximately the

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same location immediately after one another. Chances are they will probably have a similar pool of extra coins to trade from the local area machines. To allow a good variance in the box, it's wise to chose participants in remotely different areas to follow one another numerically on the list.

Some participants may request to be put toward the beginning of the list; others might request the opposite end of the spectrum and ask to be added to the latter half of the list. For whatever reason these requests are made, it's usually simple to incorporate these requests and decide how you will then shuffle the participants into an ordered list. A blank form (Coin Box List) is enclosed in this booklet. Feel free to copy it for your personal use; filling in the blanks will make your job much easier.

As the moderator, it's important to make sure you put your address last if you wish the package of coins to return to your location.



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MODERATOR DUTIES

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MODERATOR DUTIES:

The duties of the moderator are fairly basic. Below is a list of the primary responsibilities the moderator should complete. Keeping notes and monitoring movements are the primary goals for a moderator.

1. Design & assemble the box contents: After deciding what you're going to put in the box, choose the appropriate coins and try to assemble a good mixture. The actual box/package itself is important to note, because most coin boxes travel via postal service. Consider the best method for shipping, such as flat rate envelope or flat rate box, and what the approximate postage will be. This might be a relevant fact to inform participants of when asking them to sign up. Many new collectors might be surprised that it can cost \$5 - \$11 to ship the coin box to its next location. I've found it easiest to place the actual coins in a strong reusable package inside the postal envelope such as a zippered bank bag with your name marked in black permanent marker on the outside. If the package becomes compromised in any way during shipping, a sturdy inner package will help keep the contents intact.

In addition to the actual coins, some sample items that should be placed within the box are: a copy of the List, Rules, extra 2X2 zip lock bags, and the moderator's contact information. Other items pertaining to the box topic can be placed within the interior as well.

2. Formulating rules: As a moderator it's important to note any pet peeves you might have in your rules. If you wish the box to be shipped in a certain type of envelope with insurance and/or delivery confirmation, note it in your rules.

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Trade ratios (if applicable), acceptable and unacceptable coins, and the amount of time that a participant has before the box must be shipped out, are important facts to add at this point. Most boxes hit snags due to a participant's inability to move a box forward. Reasons can be because the package arrived while they were out of town, or perhaps because of a busy schedule it gets put to the side. There are many rules that can be thought of, but it is important to keep them simple and fair. The box is supposed to be a fun project for members to participate in. Keep this in mind, but at the same time keep a guideline so everybody will have fun.

3. Finding the participants and creating the list: Once you have everything ready to go, it is then time to look for interested participants to join your coin box. It's important to post a copy of the type of box and the rules when approaching each person. If they are willing to abide by the rules, collect their information and any special requests they may have. If anybody has any concerns regarding your rules, it is important to discuss them then, before the box gets started. Many moderators will limit the number of participants on a list; a good number would be 10-15 members. More than that, it might take many months or even a year or more to get around! This is how the legendary Bigfoot boxes get started, "I signed up, heard it existed, but have never seen it. Somebody saw it once I heard."

4. Sending out the box: There are two great days in a moderator's job- the day they send out the box and the day they get it back. It's important to make sure that all the contents are in the box and that you keep a copy of the rules and list on your desk in case any problems should arise.

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5. Monitoring the box movement: As the moderator, your job isn't complete until the box returns back to your location. To improve the success of your coin box, it is important to monitor its location at all times. Request that your participants contact you when they get the package, and also when it's shipped out. If a box is stuck at one location in a snag, contact the participant and try to work out a solution to move the box on. Keep track of each movement on a tracking sheet. This will help you remember dates if your memory is as poor as mine.

6. Have fun: The most important part of being the moderator is having fun. Keep track of what works and what doesn't. What works in my coin box might not be what you prefer. Use what you can, and enjoy the wonderful world of elongates.



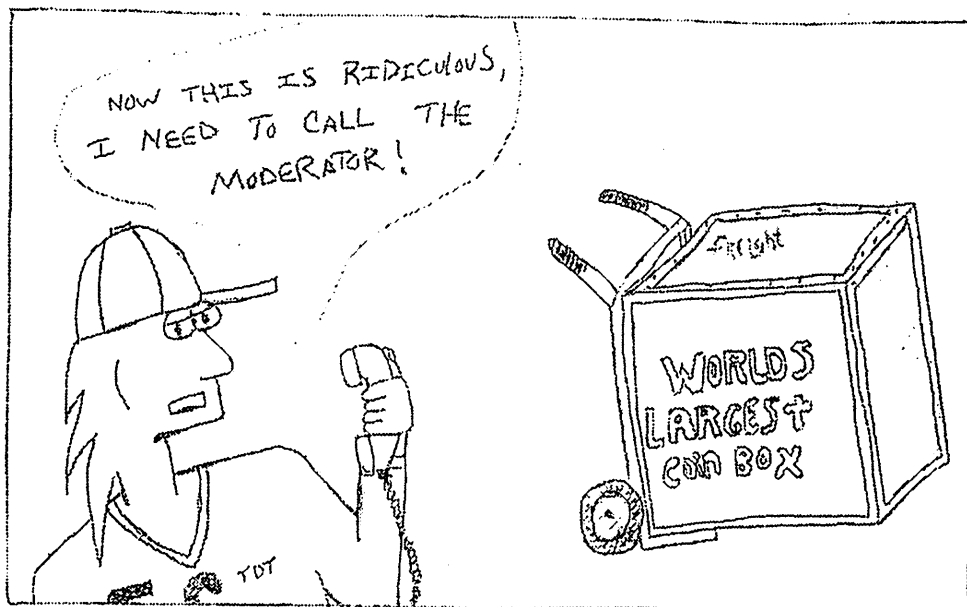
PARTICIPANT DUTIES

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PARTICIPANT DUTIES:

Even if you are just a participant, you too have responsibilities. When a moderator requests collectors to sign up, know what you're getting into. Review the rules and most importantly follow the **Golden Rule** when the box does arrive at your location. If each participant trades coins in and out in a courteous manner, then the following member should have an equally pleasant experience. Listed below are a few topics that you might wish to read.

1. **Review the rules:** Before you agree to sign up for the box, read the posted rules, know what type of coins are in the box and understand what your duties are as a participant. If there is any rule that you do not agree with or you cannot follow, contact the moderator and discuss the purpose for this additional rule, or perhaps don't participate in that box.



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2. Provide list information: Be prepared to provide the requested information. A moderator might request additional information from you as needed. Realistically a box of 100 coins can add up to a decent amount of money, the moderator might want to be able to contact you in case the package is lost, damaged, or in a snag.

3. Be courteous: Only keep possession of the box as long as necessary. If your schedule is too hectic or perhaps you're going on vacation and you don't have time to get to the box for a week or two, send it on. Contact the moderator and tell them of your circumstances. Most of them will be willing to work with you and perhaps your name can be added to the list at a later date. Be a responsible participant. Don't be the cause of an unnecessary snag.

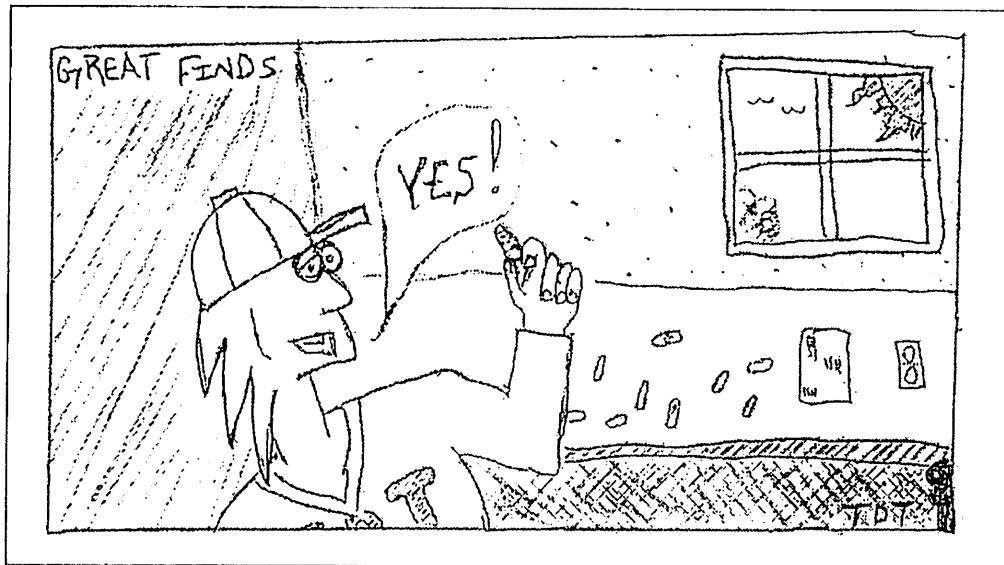
4. Report box status: It always helps the moderator if you contact them when the package arrives and leaves your location. Also, if the box is in disarray, discuss this with the moderator upon receipt. If the box is an all copper box and it arrives full of zincs, let them know. Some moderators might request that you send the box back to them once you're done with the package, especially if it's full of trash so they can take corrective actions.

5. Trading coins: When exchanging coins in and out of the box, follow the Golden Rule; "Don't put anything into the box that you yourself wouldn't want to add to your collection." Do not place coins into the box that might be considered trash, and it's usually frowned upon to upgrade your coins. By

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placing quality coins back into the box you ensure that the next individual will have an opportunity to gain wonderful coins for their collection as well.

6. **Enjoy:** The main part of participating in a coin box is not only to gain great coins for your collection, but to enjoy the experience. By participating in the coin box you might find one of those hidden gems that you've been searching for. Good luck.



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SPECIAL OPTIONAL TOPICS

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Trade ratios:

Trade ratios are listed under special topics and rules because they might not be considered in many boxes. If the coin box is all copper, then a ratio wouldn't even need to be considered if everyone follows the rules of the box.

In mixed coin boxes an agreed upon coin value should be put into place. In many collectors' eyes, a zinc elongate is not worth the same as a nickel or copper EC. If you do not incorporate a strict rule against zinc for zincs and copper for coppers, a trade ratio is the best option. Failure to put this in your rules will most often result in getting back a box full of zincs.

This system works by assigning a trade value to each type of coin. Each coin will be traded on a 1-for-1 basis for like coins. Rarer coin types have a higher trade value; even rollers with their own machines often roll other denominational coins in smaller quantities due to the higher cost of the host coin, and the possibility of damage some of these coins can cause their equipment.

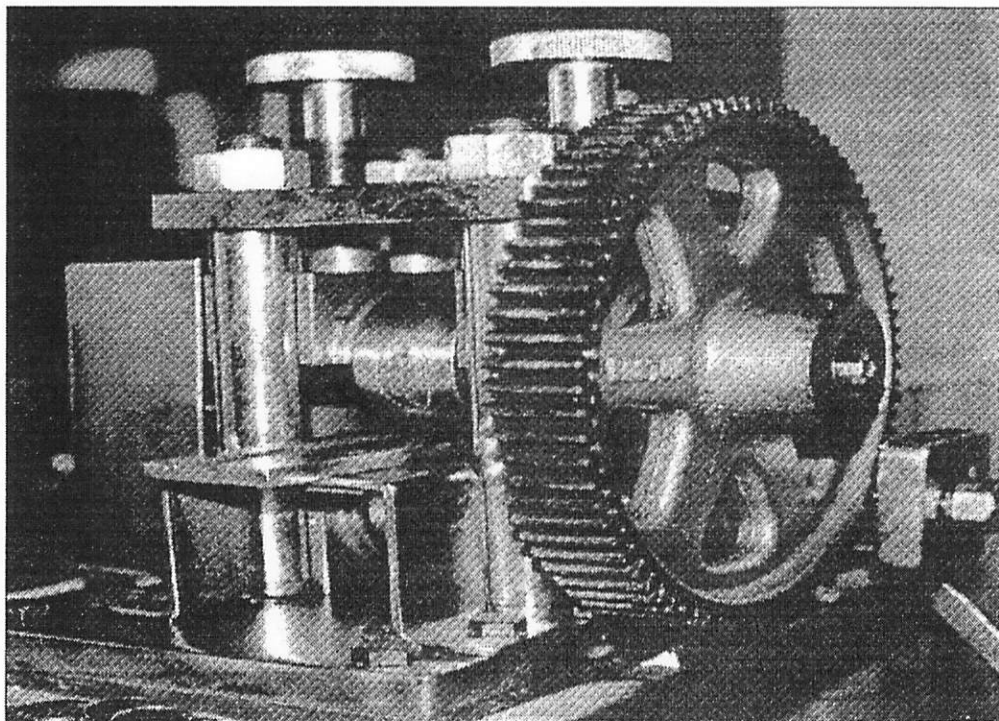
<u>COIN TYPE</u>	<u>TRADE VALUE</u>
Copper (1909-1982CU)	1 trade value
Dime	2 trade value
Dollar	4 trade value
Half Dollar	4 trade value
Nickel	2 trade value
Quarter	2 trade value
Steel Cent	2 trade value
Zinc	½ trade value

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Therefore, if you take out 1 nickel EC, you must replace it with a coin or coins whose value is equal in a trade value of 2. This scale can be changed to fit your needs; some collectors might assign a higher value to half dollars and dollar ECs. It would be tough for me as a roller or collector to ever trade a half dollar roll with a trade value of 4, for zincs that have a trade value of $\frac{1}{2}$, even if it is 8 zincs!

Retired coin values:

Many collectors assign a double value to retired coins. In my opinion it is hard to qualify a coin as truly retired unless the die has been destroyed or altered. New collectors have also classified private rolls erroneously as retired. If you need to assign a double value to retired coins due to the rarity, keep these coins on your trade list, it merely confuses the box.



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Copper or zinc, the unknown EC

Have you even had a coin where you couldn't tell if it was copper or zinc? Before you send it out in a trade or put it in the coin box, know for sure which one it is. There are a few ingenious methods that one can use. One of the tried and true methods is called the Popsicle Stick Balance Beam; another method is to use a small inexpensive digital scale.

Popsicle stick balance beam:

It's a simple solution, plus you get to enjoy a Popsicle to get the stick. Take a Popsicle stick and place a copper coin at each end, lay a pencil flat on the table, I like to use one that isn't all the way round so it won't roll. Set the Popsicle stick centered on the pencil crosswise and adjust it back and forth until it balances the two copper pennies. Mark with a pen the position of the copper coins and the fulcrum point (part where the pencil sits under the beam). Remove one of the copper coins from one end. You can then place the unknown EC in the place where the copper coin was. Sometimes a small piece of double-sided tape can be used to hold the coins in place. If it balances, it's copper. If the copper penny drops and lifts the EC, the EC is obviously lighter and zinc.

Digital scale:

I've found it quicker and easier to invest in a small pocket digital scale. I've bought one online for \$10 or less. Copper cents will weigh in the neighborhood of 3.11 grams, zincs at 2.5 grams.

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Terminology

Box: A package of elongates sent from one individual to the next for the purpose of trading. Progression is determined by the list that is formulated by the moderator. Its contents are dictated by the topic and rules.

Cherry Picking: Breaking designated sets by pulling out choice coins or possibly only taking the non-generics out of a set and leaving the rest. Actions such as these negatively affect the contents of a box and are often included in the box rules as an action that participants should not do.

Golden Rule: Don't put anything in the box that you yourself wouldn't want to add to your own collection.

List: Printed page containing names and addresses of the box participants, usually in numerical order. When the participant receives the coin box they cross their name off the list and upon completion of the trades, send the box to the next participant on the list.

Moderator/Creator: Individual or group in charge of seeding the box, creating the list, and formulating the rules. The moderator is also the person who supervises the progression of the package as it moves along its journey.

Participants: Listed members enrolled in the coin box.

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Private Machines: A machine that is operated by a roller in their home or work shop. These machines usually will not have vending mechanisms and most of the times are not available to the general public. Rollers with private machines often do custom work for collectors and businesses that would like a specially designed elongate created.









Rules: A posted and agreed upon set of guidelines put in place to facilitate smooth transition and trading summary for the participants, these are formatted to prevent trash in the box and other anomalies. (A sample rules page is enclosed in this booklet.)

Seeding the Box: Initial elongates used to create the package of coins. Particular style and content are often predetermined by the rules of the box. Common themes include: all copper, sets, theme parks, or zoos. Typical sized package is around 100 or more coins.

Snag: Any event or person that stops or impedes the forward progress of the box. Snags are often caused by list individuals who do not forward the box in a timely manner for whatever reason.

Trash: Short, off-center, misrolled, or any other elongate that would be considered an inferior product. For example: zinc in an all copper box, poorly rolled coins, etc. Too many inferior products placed in a box will ruin the integrity of the package. Below is a picture showing examples of coins that might be considered trash.

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Short Roll	Short-Late Start	Extra Long Roll	Hole Punched
			
Half Image	Late Start Misroll	Early Start Misroll	Off Center

Upgrading: If a participant exchanges an elongate from the box with the same elongate from their collection because the coin in the box is in better condition, this is called an upgrade. This is a practice that is heavily frowned upon in the coin box, because if everybody did this the quality content of the box will quickly degrade.

Vended Machine: Elongate souvenir machine most collectors are familiar with. These can be found at zoos, museums, amusement parks, and other tourist type venues. They are often equipped with a mechanism that accepts two quarters and a penny.

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RULES & FORMS

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COIN BOX RULES

1. Follow the Golden Rule; "Don't put anything into this box that you yourself wouldn't want to add to your own collection."
2. No cherry picking or upgrading.
3. Clean copper for clean copper, or clean copper only.
4. Contact moderator upon receipt of the coin box, and report any abnormalities.
5. Follow trade ratio if applicable.
6. Outgoing coin box must be packaged to ensure safe delivery to the next list member. Make sure to cross your name off the list, and place all items back into the box (coins, list and rules). Ship via Flat Rate Priority Envelope. Please note postal regulations only allow a single strip of tape across the flap and nowhere else.
7. Contact the moderator with shipping (out) information.

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COIN BOX LIST

1. Name: _____

Address: _____

2. Name: _____

Address: _____

3. Name: _____

Address: _____

4. Name: _____

Address: _____

5. Name: _____

Address: _____

6. Name: _____

Address: _____

7. Name: _____

Address: _____

8. Name: _____

Address: _____

9. Name: _____

Address: _____

10. Name: _____

Address: _____

11. Name: _____

Address: _____

12. Name: _____

Address: _____

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MODERATORS TRACKING SHEET

1. Name: _____	E-MAIL _____
Address: _____	RECEIVED: _____
_____	SHIPPED: _____
_____	NOTES: _____
_____	_____

2. Name: _____	E-MAIL _____
Address: _____	RECEIVED: _____
_____	SHIPPED: _____
_____	NOTES: _____
_____	_____

3. Name: _____	E-MAIL _____
Address: _____	RECEIVED: _____
_____	SHIPPED: _____
_____	NOTES: _____
_____	_____

4. Name: _____	E-MAIL _____
Address: _____	RECEIVED: _____
_____	SHIPPED: _____
_____	NOTES: _____
_____	_____

5. Name: _____	E-MAIL _____
Address: _____	RECEIVED: _____
_____	SHIPPED: _____
_____	NOTES: _____
_____	_____

6. Name: _____	E-MAIL _____
Address: _____	RECEIVED: _____
_____	SHIPPED: _____
_____	NOTES: _____
_____	_____

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So many coins, so little time...

Thank you for reading my elongated coin booklet, I would appreciate any questions or comments on this topic. Please feel free to contact me at:

Tyler Tyson

3326 Exchange Place

Wichita, Ks. 67217

· I can also be reached via e-mail at: zyturgion@hotmail.com